

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-4 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claim 1 is amended for clarity. No new matter is added. Reconsideration of the application in view of the above amendment and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claim 2 stands withdrawn. Claim 2 depends from claim 1, and therefore should be rejoined and allowed upon the allowance of claim 1.

The Office Action, on page 3, rejects claims 1, 3 and 4 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,774,935 to Morimoto et al. (hereinafter "Morimoto") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,067,624 to Kuno. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 recites, among other features, wherein the first digital camera detects an instruction about taking a photograph from the first controller while the first digital camera is controlled by the second controller, the first digital camera stores the instruction about taking the photograph from the first controller and only executes the instruction about taking the photograph from the first controller, which is stored in the first digital camera, after completion of all of the control of the first digital camera by the second controller.

Morimoto is directed to a digital camera that includes a connector for connecting another digital camera and an interface for exchanging data between the digital camera and the other digital camera (Abstract). The Office Action asserts that Morimoto teaches many of the features recited in independent claim 1. The Office Action concedes that Morimoto fails to teach that when the first digital camera detects the instruction about taking a photograph from the first controller while the first digital camera is controlled by the second controller, the first digital camera stores the instruction about taking a photograph from the first controller, which is stored in the first digital camera, and only executes the instruction in the first controller after completion of the control of the first digital camera by the second controller. Rather, the Office Action relies on Kuno, in its disclosure of an image input system, to make up for this shortfall.

Kuno is directed to an image input system in which a plurality of users can perform remote operations (col. 1, lines 7-8). The Office Action asserts that Kuno, at col. 6, lines 1-23, teaches features that can be considered to correspond to the claimed instruction about taking a photograph. The Office Action asserts that it would have obvious to have combined Kuno with Morimoto to execute control instructions received by the first controller taught in Morimoto after completion of the control by the second controller as taught by Kuno, for the benefit of appropriately managing control privileges of a digital camera, and thus preventing operational conflicts. The analysis of the Office Action fails for at least the following reasons.

Kuno cannot be relied upon in the manner the Office Action suggests. Kuno fails to teach, and would not have rendered obvious, wherein the first digital camera detects an instruction about taking a photograph from the first controller ... after completion of all of the control of the first digital camera by the second controller. Kuno teaches, at col. 5, lines 38-50, that since the top of the camera control queue has been substituted for an argument ID in step S5, the processing proceeds to step S122. In step S122, the control-privilege possessing time is set again to time a control-privilege possessing time of the next client who will have the control privilege. Then, the request in the camera control queue designated by the argument ID is deleted from the camera control queue (step S123). In this case, the top of the queue (C21 in Fig. 3) is deleted from the camera control queue. Because Kuno deletes the top of the queue, C21 from Fig. 3, Kuno cannot reasonably be considered to only execute the instruction about taking the photograph from the first controller, which is stored in the first digital camera, after completion of all of the control to the first digital camera by the second controller. In Kuno, the control of the first digital camera is deleted according to a specified control-privilege possessing time. When the control to the first digital camera is substituted in the queue, then the instruction about taking the photograph from the first controller is executed. Kuno, therefore, does not teach, or otherwise render obvious, completing all of the control to the first camera by the second controller, as recited in claim 1.

For at least the foregoing reason, no combination of Kuno with Morimoto would have rendered obvious the combination of all of the features recited in independent claim 1. Further, dependent claims 3 and 4 would also not have been rendered obvious for at least the dependence of these claims on independent claim 1, as well as for the separately patentable subject matter that each of these claims recites.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1, 3 and 4 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Morimoto in view of Kuno, are respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1, 3 and 4, and rejoinder and allowance of claim 2, are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachment:  
Petition for Extension of Time

Date: November 3, 2010

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